

Conducting Research Visits at the Clinical Studies Center During COVID-19

1. Research Visit Location

- a. AVAHCS 11th floor Clinical Studies Center.

2. VA Research Personnel Duties

- a. Mail subject an appointment letter with date, time, location, and study staff phone numbers. Tell them to bring it with them to the AVAHCS on day of visit. COVID-19 screening staff at the front of the building will not allow patients into medical center unless they have an appointment. Remember: research visits are not listed in CPRS.
- b. Call subject day before visit to pre-screen for COVID-19. Ask subject:
 - i. Have you experienced a fever in the past 10 days?
 - ii. Have you experienced a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath in the last 10 days?
 - iii. Have you been exposed to a person with known Coronavirus in the past 10 days?
 - iv. Have you traveled to any area with known Coronavirus in the last 10 days?
 - v. Do not proceed with the visit if any answers are yes. Subject should be referred to their healthcare provider for further instruction or they can call the VA Call Center at 404-329-2222
- c. AVAHCS patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. These participants will have waited at least 10 days from symptom onset plus 3 days after last day of symptoms prior to attending research visit.
- d. Inform subject that they will be required to wear a mask during the entire visit.
- e. Sanitize exam room prior to and after study visit using Sani wipes or equivalent. Wipe down all contact areas.
- f. Wear mask at all times.
- g. Wash hands before and after visit.
- h. Maintain social distancing when possible.
- i. Follow medical center guidelines for infection control.

3. Research Participants:

- a. Need to wait in car until research staff calls them to say it is time to enter the building.
- b. Are not permitted to have other accompany them unless assistance needed.
- c. Enter building at main entrance and undergo screening by VA Staff
- d. Report directly to 11th floor and check-in at Clinical Studies Center (CSC) or meet research staff member at the VA entrance.
- e. Will be escorted directly to a CSC exam room.
- f. Should not congregate in waiting rooms or other areas.